

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 151903Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8532

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 09553

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, TS

SUBJECT: FRANCO-TUNISIAM RELATIONS

1. DURING CONVERSATION APRIL 14, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA DE WARREN TOLD US THAT THE SEEMINGLY EXCELLENT FRANCO-TUNISIAN RELATIONS ARE CURRENTLY CLOUDED BY THE QUESTION OF INDEMNIFICATION FOR FRENCH-OWNED LAND NATIONALIZED BY TUNISIA. THE FACT THAT GISCARD'S FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT WAS TO ALGERIA, WHICH REFUSES TO CONSIDER LAND INDEMNIFICATION, AND NOT TO TUNISIA, WHERE LEGISLATION PROVIDES FOR INDEMNIFICATION, HAS RUFFLED TUNISIAN FEELINGS THUS ADDING TO THE PROBLEM.

2. ACCORDING TO WARREN, PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA AND OTHER MINISTERS ARE PREPARED TO PAY AT LEAST SYMBOLIC INDEMNIFICATION BUT BOURGUIBA CONSIDERS THAT IT IS TOO LATE TO MAKE EVEN A GESTURE FOR LAND NATIONALIZED ELEVEN YEARS AGO. NOUIRA HAD INTENDED TO COME TO PARIS DURING THE SECOND HALF OF MAY TO DISCUSS PLANS TO OPEN CONVERSATIONS ON LAND INDEMNIFICATION LATER THIS YEAR, WARREN SAID' BUT THE TUNISIANS ARE NO LONGER TALKING

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ABOUT THE VISIT. HENCE, TRAVEL BY GISCARD TO TUNISIA

IS NOT CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION SINCE IT WOULD BE
DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO GO THERE BEFORE SOME ACTION ON
INDEMNIFICATION IS TAKEN. WARREN DID NOT PREDICT WHEN
THE "LITTLE MALAISE" MIGHT BE DISSIPATED.
STONE

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NNN

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